

1607/547. 6

AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
Divine Visitation and Blessing,
ATTENDING THE
RELIGIOUS CARE AND EXERCISE
OF THE
TEACHERS
OF
WALTHAM-ABBEY SCHOOL;
WITH THE
Gracious Dealings of the ALMIGHTY towards some
others in tender Years.

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart.

DEUT. xi. 18.

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained
strength. PSALM viii. 2.

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1607/5417



INTRODUCTION.

THE view in reprinting the following pages is with a hope (accompanied with affectionate solicitude) that the knowledge of the marvellous display of Divine Kindness to the Children and Young People of that generation, may tend so profitably to impress the feelings of the present, as to stir up the pure mind in prayer and supplication to our Heavenly Father, that ye also through a submission of your wills to His may become as passive clay in his hand, formed and fashioned according to his own blessed design, and have the like testimony to bear to the sufficiency of his power as the visited Children in that day had, though it might then appear to many a strange act, so as not to be understood by those who were unacquainted with the inward operation of Truth: but he that is mighty hath done great things, and is still able to perfect his own work, in his truly humble resigned followers; therefore let none slight

or desire to get from under the visitation of heavenly light, but love its appearing and yield obedience to the convicting evidence thereof. Thus will ye also become the Children of the Lord, taught of him, established in righteousness, and great will be your peace; then will Zion's travellers see the desire of their souls and be satisfied, who rejoice greatly when they behold you steadily walking in the Truth.

M. R.

A TESTIMONY

A
TESTIMONY
TO THE
Lord's Power and blessed Appearance
IN AND AMONG THE
CHILDREN
AT
WALTHAM-ABBEY SCHOOL,
Who, while young and tender, tasted of his good
Word and heavenly Life.
Printed in London in the Year 1679.

UPON the 4th day of the Fourth Month 1679, at a meeting of the People called Quakers, in the town of Waltham-Abbey in Essex, there were present about forty or fifty children ; God's heavenly power broke forth into some young girls ; it began with three or four at first, broke them into tears and melting of heart, then reached two or three of the younger boys, and in a very small time reached all the children, many of them being from eight to ten years old ; the power was so mighty, that they were all broken into tears, some into trembling, and at last it spread unto the elder people ; and continued about one hour, until the meeting ended :—this I was an eye and ear witness of, and felt God's power wonderfully, to the gladdening of my heart, and answering the breathings

of my soul, which I have many a time had in travail for the children, that the Lord might visit them in their young days: after meeting I had this hope and faith raised in my soul, which to some I declared, that God had a work to work in some of these children.—And several signal testimonies hereof, hath he brought forth since, as hereafter appeareth from other eye and ear witnesses. And although men in the fallen wisdom see not, understand not, nor believe that this is from the mighty power of God, yet there is a remnant who have experienced the operation hereof, how it hath wrought in them, even in some, when they were young; these are witnesses that this is his work, yea, it is sealed to them by his Spirit: and let all the mockers know, God's work in our day will be too heavy for them; and except they repent, will be a stone of stumbling, upon which they will fall and be broken to pieces.

This is from one who travails and breathes to the Lord, that his everlasting power may be more and more revealed, in the hearts of the sons and daughters of men, that many may be gathered out of the fall, unto Christ Jesus, that never fell, that they may feel themselves growing up in his heavenly life, as living members of him the blessed head; then will they come to understand that these things are from the Lord; when the inward eye and ear is opened, they will, with me, bear testimony thereto.

G. LAUR Y.

The 6th day of the Fifth Month 1679.

A Letter

A Letter to A. P.

DEAR A. P.

I cannot but certify somewhat of our last night's exercise in the meeting in our family, how mighty the power of the Lord appeared amongst us ; first breaking in upon two young lads, and so passed through the rest, with such dread, that there was an exceeding great shaking and tenderness amongst them, rather more than on that notable fourth day ; after their retiring to bed, many of them lay weeping and lamenting for two or three hours together : some who had been sober, meek, and gentle, the power overcame them in a most blessed manner, so that they were filled with heavenly praises, uttering such words as sweet conditioned souls are wont to do, when they are sealed by the Lord's spirit : others most bitterly lamenting their conditions, especially one of the aforesaid lads, for about three hours together in his bed, exceeded and cried out for mercy, so dreadfully, that I never (as I remember) heard a more terrible exercise from small or great ; when I told him how patiently his bed-fellow lay beside him, he answered, the reason was, he had not been so wicked as himself. If I could but write down the speeches of the poor children, under their various exercises, I may well say, it would be a wonderful thing, and such a lesson as many hearts would be broken to read ; what shall I say, but admire the love and mercy of the Lord in these things ! C—— was truly refreshed in his soul ; with him and several others, there was a secret inward harmony from a feeling sense of God's pure visitation, and some more dreadfully seized on, and broken in upon by the authority of the power, so that it was admirable to behold the variety of exercises suitable to the condition and disposition of every child.

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This is a hint to thee of the matter, who I know dearly loves us, and will be refreshed at any time to hear of our welfare: so leaving the rest to W. C. who was with us in the meeting, if thou pleaseft to inquire of him, I rest thy loving brother in the fellowship of truth.

C. TAYLOR.

*Waltham-Abbey, the 24th of
the Fourth Month 1679.*

A Letter to T. T.

24th of the Fourth Month 1679.

DEAR BROTHER,

SITTING towards evening with the family and children, being in all about fifty, the Lord's sweet and tender heart-breaking power was with us, in a shower of love, mercy, and gentleness, which caused abundance of tears, and great gladness, like unto the love of a most tender father, in forgiveness and mercy, after correction and submission, especially to such who had been most stubborn: and the more mild and gentle conditioned were under the sense of the same power, in pure love and sweet tenderness; the whole meeting was, I may truly say, so filled with divine comfort, that the heavenly flame drowned all sorrow at that time, and conquered all sense of terror and judgment, nothing but love and mercy appearing and overcoming all, that it was woderful to behold the great gravity and sense of the children in the exercise.—And now I may say that there is not one who hath been of the worst temper and disposition, but in pleading with them about their condition, have been broken into a sensible acknowledgment with weeping

weeping eyes, so far hath the most blessed power of the living God appeared in this place ; a day much longed for ; glory to the Lord for ever : and certainly the living God will bestow more of his blessings upon us, by still pouring forth of his heavenly spirit, as we are tender before him, and of his glory.

So dear brother, admire with us, the excellency of God's pure love, and pray with us, that we may all be kept in the sweet and humble acknowledgment of his most tender mercies ; and Oh ! that we may never give the least occasion, whereby the Lord may withdraw the sense of such great love and mercy from us : so dear brother, if I could tell thee I would, how full of sweet melody my soul is at present from the sense of his pure goodness, and how full of joy and gladness, and heavenly praises ; Oh the glorious heavenly power of the Lord, when he pleases, it most wonderfully overcomes the hearts of his beloved and tender children.—Oh dear brother, feel what my soul can admire, but my tongue is unable to utter.

C. TAYLOR.

*A Testimony concerning the Goodness and Mercy
of God, our Heavenly Father, in Christ Jesus,
manifested to the Children of our Family.*

IN the sense of the great love and tender mercies of the Lord, who hath often graciously visited, and livingly refreshed my soul in our evening or family meetings, I can and do bear, this living and faithful testimony, that at a meeting the twenty-third of the Fourth Month, in the evening, the great God and Father of mercies, in a special and wonderful manner, did abundantly pour forth of his holy

holy spirit of life and grace upon our spirits through Jesus Christ our Saviour, by which we were broken and melted before him, that waters did gush out of the rocks, springs were opened in dry places, and the very depths did utter forth its voice. I myself was so overcome with this heavenly life, virtue, and power, that I did shake and tremble before him the mighty God of heaven and earth, who by his quick and powerful voice, shaketh the wilderness, and breaketh the cedars of Lebanon, at whose appearance and look the earth trembles, and at whose touch the hills smoke : this his great love and powerful operation upon my heart and spirit (being livingly refreshed and comforted by it) did cause my soul to magnify the Lord and my spirit to rejoice in God my Saviour, singing and making sweet melody in my heart to the Lord, because he did so graciously answer the desire of our souls, and powerfully break in upon the children, revealing himself in his great and almighty power amongst them, in and through which their hearts were broken, their spirits melted, and their souls humbly bowed before him, as the alone searcher of the heart, and trier of the reins, making known to every one his state and condition, and bringing to the light the hidden things of darkness, which brought sorrow and trouble upon them, causing many to cry out, Oh who can appear and stand before the great judge of quick and dead, and not tremble at his word, under the sense of his judgments, till they be brought forth unto victory, and the soul comes to feel redemption from sin and iniquity, through the blood of Jesus Christ. We are living witnesses of his powerful work, amongst the children, who hath thus appeared and revealed himself in his heavenly authority ; for my soul hath often been poured out to the Lord on their behalf, that he would be pleased to reach unto their hearts, by his quickening

ing power, that they might come to experience in themselves, what had often been declared to them by others ; might learn to fear him their Creator in the days of their youth, and their souls be engaged and constrained to love and obey him.

Now the Lord hath heard our cry, and answered our desire, he hath manifested his great love, favour, and mercy unto them and us, in the sense whereof my soul doth rejoice, praising and glorifying his name on their and our behalf ; I can bear my witness in truth, that the sense of the goodness of the Lord, did rest upon my spirit all the night long, that after I awaked my eyes were full of tears, and my soul full of holy praises and thanksgiving unto him, because of his tender mercies and great love towards us, breathing to the Lord, that he in his heavenly blessed power, would carry on his great work of regeneration, that he hath begun in and upon our spirits, and to bless us daily more and more with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus, to the praise and glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved, according to the riches of his grace, wherein he hath reached and abounded towards us, to declare that he has pardoned our sins, and received us into his fatherly love and care.

What shall I say of the following meeting ? I am not able to express the sweet refreshing life, virtue, and power of our heavenly father, arising in us with healing under his wings. For as the evening before, fearfulness and trembling came upon many, and horror had overwhelmed them, so now at this time the sweet love of a most tender merciful father, did sweetly and livingly refresh and comfort their souls ; he healed the broken in heart and bound up their wounds with the balm of his heavenly life, to the great comfort and satisfaction of our souls, who partook of the water of life, that
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the Lord poured forth and made us to drink of ; in and through which the spirit of the humble was quickened, and the heart of the contrite ones revived.

Now as the Lord in those two meetings hath appeared and revealed himself in and to us, in a most special, gracious, and powerful manner, so his sweet and heart-melting love and tender mercies have hitherto followed us from meeting to meeting, sensibly and livingly refreshing, comforting, strengthening, and confirming our souls in his love, life, virtue, and power, until this very day ; Praises, glory, and honour be to our God, henceforth and for ever.

Moreover it is sealed to me by the Holy Spirit, that we shall be monuments of his tender mercies, fatherly love, and care (these are the words which livingly arose in my heart, as we were lately gathered together, and arise again as I am writing this testimony) we shall be monuments of his tender mercies, fatherly love, and care, if we keep low, humble, meek, and tender before him ; he will instruct and teach us in the way in which we should go, and guide us with his eyes, if we always fear and dread his holy name, which he hath revealed unto us, and poured forth in and among us, as a good and precious ointment, which causeth us to be glad and to rejoice in him, and to love him with all our heart, soul, and mind.—In the sense of the great love and tender mercies of the Lord, my soul desires that I and every one of us, especially our dear children, that have with us tasted of the good word and power of the world to come ; by which our souls have been quickened, and livingly refreshed and comforted, may be always kept in a living sense of the loving-kindness and goodness of the Lord towards us, that so we may walk in humility, righteousness, and holiness before him,

who

who hath reached to our souls, and made us sensible of our inward state and condition, and also of his love, grace, and mercy, that we may walk worthy of this his great love, and dread and fear him in our hearts, always having the eye of our mind towards him, that by his light shining in our souls, we may see even the least appearance of evil, and receive power to be kept and preserved out of it, lest by entering in or consenting to it, we should offend the Lord, and cause him to withdraw his sweet love, and to hide the light and favour of his countenance from us, which would bring sorrow and anguish upon our souls. Oh let us walk worthy of his great love ; let every one of us be circumspect in our lives and conversations, that our enemies, who reproach and blaspheme the holy name and powerful work of the Lord, may behold our innocent upright lives, and thereby may be reached and convinced, that the Lord hath appeared in and among us, by which he hath wrought a new heart, and renewed a right spirit within us, the blessed effect whereof is holiness and righteousness ; which work is not of man, but of the everlasting pure and holy God, who hath begotten us again into the heavenly image of his dear son Christ Jesus, which consists in holiness, righteousness, and truth.

Having therefore received grace and mercy, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God, that we may shew forth the heavenly virtue and power of him that hath called and translated us from darkness into his marvellous light, and turned us from Satan's power to his own, in which we are enabled to do good works ; so an entrance shall be ministered unto us abundantly, into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is the true light which enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world ; in which heavenly and

divine light we daily receive life, virtue, and power, to escape the corruption that is in the world through lust, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world, to the honour and praise of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. For this is the very end of the heavenly, living, powerful appearance of our God in the midst of us, that in and through the power of his son Christ Jesus, revealed in us, he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous unto good works; that so out of the mouths of babes and sucklings he may perfect praise. Let us therefore always be found in well-doing, that our light may shine before men, that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven, who dwells in the light, and is light, in which if we walk we have fellowship with him, and one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son, which cleanses us from all sin, is inwardly known and felt, and the true fellowship with the father and the son comes to be witnessed. Righteousness and holiness is shewn forth; for herein is our heavenly Father glorified of his children, when they bring forth much fruit in righteousness and truth, always proving and doing what is acceptable unto the Lord; to whom be glory and honour, praises and hallelujahs, wisdom and dominion, now, henceforth, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen.

Testified by me,

JOHN MATERN.

5th of the Fifth Month 1679.

WHEN I consider the goodness, mercy, and love of Almighty God to the sons and daughters of men, so largely manifested and suited to every capacity and

and condition, to this end and purpose, that all, even from the least to the greatest, may be made sensible and living monuments of his wonderful work, which he hath been carrying on in all ages, less or more; but now in this latter age of the world is cutting the work short in righteousness; I see it clearly in the light of the Lord, for which my soul is overcome with praises and thanksgiving to him, who takes pleasure to dwell with the lowly in heart, that are willing to follow him, whithersoever he in his requirings may lead; glory to his blessed name for ever.

The consideration of the Lord's wonderful dealing in our family constrains me at this time to declare of his virtue, livingly witnessed therein; I find it sealed in my heart, that the Lord hath begun a blessed work in and among the younger sort, so that I can say in truth, the Lord hath been here, the blessed effects whereof do sufficiently declare it: Oh! how is my soul overjoyed when I see that wild nature, which bore rule in some, changed and brought under, so that I may say with the prophet, on behalf of the children, that in some, instead of the thorn comes up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier comes up the myrtle-tree, and it is for the Lord a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off: this hath been the end desired by all the upright-hearted ones, in their labour and daily exercise in this family, who are nearly concerned in them. And Oh! let all hearts join with me, to praise and extol the God of all goodness, who in his love hath given us an earnest thereof, which is more to us than thousands of silver or gold! This the Lord hath been bringing to pass for several years, by his almighty power and outstretched arm invisibly in the hearts of the young ones, and now hath more manifestly begun to shew forth his power, to the melting of the rocky hearted and tendering

them into tears, which was livingly witnessed to by many, who felt the power of the Almighty to overshadow them, in a wonderful manner, at our Fourth-day's meeting at Waltham-Abbey; so that in the sense of the goodness of the Lord, tendered to my soul and the souls of the children then present, I was broken into tears, having a deep sense of the work of the Lord in my own particular; I was overcome with joy to feel the Lord's power so working in the children's minds, that they were melted and broken, to the amazement of many present, who never saw such a day, nor witnessed the Lord's power to change them. Oh! what comfort, what satisfaction unutterable was ministered to them who waited upon the Lord, to see their expectation answered in this manner! What greater joy could be afforded? Surely none.

I can truly say it was more to me (I hope to my dying-day never to forget it) than all visible comforts whatsoever.—And as the Lord in a wonderful manner broke forth in his living power, upon the fourth day of the Fourth Month, so we have since, and do daily witness (praises to our God for it) the same arm of power to work in our family meetings, that for some nights we have gone to bed with tears in our eyes, being filled with the love of so tender and merciful a Father, who thus visited us, and filled our hearts with inexpressible joy:—and this I say on behalf of the children, that some have been so livingly refreshed in our evening meetings, that after they have been in bed, their sleep hath been taken from them for several hours together, and their souls have been filled with praises and thanksgiving.

This is a truth, the Lord is no hard master, that he takes no pleasure in the death of sinners, but even in our day, as of old, so fatherly, tenderly, and condescendingly deals even with the tender aged,

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as to accomodate himself in his appearance to their capacities, that they may feel him at work in their inward parts, who worketh in them, and for them, to the everlasting renown and praise of his worthy name for ever.

Now let all be invited hereby to bow and submit their necks to the yoke of Christ; for truly it is light to them that are made willing in the day of his mighty power.—Further let me entreat all who have been sharers therein, to walk worthy of the same, that we together may pass the time of our sojourning here in fear, that in the end, when we shall lay down these tabernacles, we may be admitted into the full fruition and complete enjoyment of his favour, who hath called us, and that very early, whose favour is better than life, whereof of late we have had a large earnest, to the refreshing of our souls and the establishment of them in his fear; everlasting praises, glory, and renown, be sounded forth unto our bountiful Lord and Master Christ Jesus, world without end. Amen.

A. PATTERSON.

A Letter from one of the Scholars.

DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER,

I AM constrained to tell you what the Lord hath done for my soul, how day after day he hath followed me with tender mercy, willing me to turn from my wickedness and vain imaginations, to obey and worship him the creator of all things. I being troubled in my conscience by the grievous terrors and judgments of God, did oftentimes lie crying in my bed, for one or two hours together, so that sometimes I could scarce sleep, but as if I had been tormented in the very depth of hell, and for

ever cast out of the sight of God, never to receive mercy from him ; but the Lord, full of mercy and love, did by degrees help me, and delivered me out of the claws of the enemy ; and, by waiting more and more upon him, I became more sensible of my state and condition, and did pray unto the God of heaven, that he would teach me his way, wherein I should walk before him in singleness and uprightness of heart, and would always preserve me in his holy fear ; for, as it is said, a bruised reed will he not break, the smoking flax will he not quench, until he send forth judgment unto victory : this have I witnessed in my particular. And again, they that wait upon the Lord renew their strength ; this also hath he made me a witness of ; for sometimes sitting down in his fear and dread, with my mind stayed upon him and waiting for his presence, he hath melted my heart and bowed down my spirit before him, by the blessed in-breakings and overspreadings of his tender love, so I could not but praise and honour him, that in such a gracious and bountiful manner hath appeared, and in abundance of love manifested himself unto me, and I have gone to my rest in peace with him, and also have admired how wonderfully he hath brought me out of Egypt, wherein I was a captive and a bond slave, under the prince of the power of darkness, with a desire never to return back into Egypt.—So the Lord, before whom I stand, knows I have a living desire that I may always be kept in his fear, and walk worthy of the love which he hath manifested unto me, and obey him, that so what I am I may be to him, and always be kept low and humble before him, giving the praise, glory, honour, and renown, unto whom it belongs, now, henceforth, and for ever. So I rest your dutiful Son,

JAMES CLAYPOOLE.

Waltham-Abbey, Fifth Month 1679.

DEAR

DEAR A. P.

MY dear and true love salutes thee, desiring thy welfare, forasmuch as when thou wast with us the mighty power of the Lord broke in amongst us and tendered our hearts, so also it hath continued with us unto this day, which I desire may never depart from us. The preserving hand of the Lord is time after time witnessed to keep and preserve us, and his intent is to do our souls good, so that in him may be our peace and salvation ; for sometimes waiting upon him, he doth so lovingly appear that he overcometh our souls, that we cannot but praise and glorify him that so graciously should visit us in his love ; as he said, in the day of my power my people shall be a willing people ; and even at the writing of these lines he hath broken my heart before him : O ! how is the Lord found of them that seek after him ? How beautiful is he in his arisings ? How doth he fill them that hunger and thirst after him ? Now are the days of comfort come, even now are the days of rejoicing and being glad in the Lord approaching unto our souls ; for he that wounded us hath in some measure healed us ; he that made our hearts sad hath now caused us to rejoice in him the creator of heaven and earth ; for who were we, or our fathers houses, that the Lord should have respect unto us ! But in his mercy hath he done it ; therefore it is my desire, that we may all be faithful unto the Lord, in that he hath committed unto us ; so shall we have more.— Much might be written, but this is sufficient to acquaint thee how it goes with us.

Thy dear friend,

JAMES CLAYPOOLE.

*Waltham-Abbey, 19th of
the Tenth Month 1679.*

THE

THE
TESTIMONY
OF
JOHN MATERN,

Who had lived Six Years, and faithfully served the
LORD in his Vocation, in the Family of

C. TAYLOR:

ALSO,

OTHER TESTIMONIES

Concerning Him, and the Truth itself.

Published that GOD may have Glory in preserving
his faithful Ones to the End. A. P.

First Printed in the Year 1680.

TO THE READERS.

DEAR FRIENDS,

TO whose hands these following testimonies
may come, here you may see the wonderful
dealings of the Lord, whose faithfulness fails nei-
ther young nor old who travail in their measures
for the prosperity of his blessed truth, both in their
own particulars, and that the increase thereof may
be great in the earth. These testimonies, both of
that

that faithful servant of the Lord, J. M. as also of others who are members of this family, together with the children's testimonies concerning the aforesaid man, we thought good to publish, that the goodness, mercy, and loving-kindness of our tender and compassionate Father, may be proclaimed in the ears of many, that others who peruse them may praise the God of heaven. This I believe will be the effect that they will have in the hearts of all Zion's travellers. And not only so, but the love of God constrains us to send them abroad, as so many messages and invitations to others, who may have been under the profession of truth for some time, and yet strangers to the life and efficacy thereof, to leaven their hearts with its savory and soul-refreshing virtue, that they may be awakened and alarmed to bestir themselves, to make their calling and election sure, while it is called to-day, as the afore-mentioned deceased person hath done. There are subjoined some testimonies of the more serious and sensible children, concerning their deceased guardian, which I know will be serviceable where they come, especially amongst young ones, and may also be of some use to teachers and instructors of children. The unprejudiced and impartial reader may feel and favour the power of truth, even in these children's testimonies, who are but young in years; neither can it be in any probable manner supposed, that they could frame such things by their own acquired abilities, but must

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with me confess that it is the Lord's work ; and who can stop it, or who can shut when the Lord opens ; or how can we sit silent, and not invite others to come and share with us of that heavenly food the Father is pleased to hand forth unto us, and that in a plentiful manner ; for which I render and return the praise, the honour, and the renown, unto him who is worthy, God blessed for ever.
Amen.

A. PATTERSON.

THE
TESTIMONY, &c.

I CANNOT but praise and magnify the Lord our God, who, in the abundance of his love and tender mercies, hath oftentimes (even to this very day) graciously and powerfully visited with the day-spring from on high, and hath livingly refreshed my soul, with many others in our family, who, in sincerity of heart and mind, in his fear and dread, have quietly and patiently waited for his loving, glorious, and powerful appearance, more than they that watch for the morning. Oh ! how hath he often broke in upon our hearts, with his holy, heavenly, almighty power, and hath tendered our spirits before him, that in the sense of his overcoming and quickening power I have been constrained to speak forth his praises, even admiring his goodness and mercies unto my soul, who, when I was a stranger to his heavenly truth, going astray like

like a lost sheep without a shepherd, not knowing the way to his blessed fold, and to the pastures of life, where he makes his flock to rest at noon, watering and refreshing them, he was pleased in his everlasting mercy to follow me, seeking that which was lost, and not giving over till he found me, wandering from mountain to hill and from hill to mountain, dry, barren, and unfruitful, in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I say, the Lord in his everlasting love, and tender bowels of compassion, followed me and found me, revealing himself unto me in my lost and undone state and condition, not knowing whither to go or where to rest, till he opened and enlightened the eyes of my mind in and through his heavenly light, which he commanded to shine out of darkness, by which I came to see and to know myself, and him whom I had so often pierced with my sins and iniquities, unto which the enemy of my soul did lead me captive at his will, till the good Shepherd and Bishop of my soul did unstopp my ears, that I could hear his voice and knockings at the door of my heart, yea, in and through his heavenly almighty power, begot in me a willingness to forsake the evil of my ways, and to deny my former teachers and leaders, that caused me to err from his holy heavenly word of truth (which was and is nigh in the heart and in the mouth) and directed me to outward things, seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness, which was to be revealed within, in outward observances and ceremonies, one crying, lo ! here, the other, lo ! there, leading away from the principle of life and truth in the inward parts, by which my soul should have been quickened and made alive unto God ; thence it came to pass, that even in the strictest observation of such things as I was directed unto, having a zeal for God, but not according to the knowledge of God, that I myself

also

also directed others to the same, when, according to the wisdom of man, and acquired natural learning in colleges where I was bred up, I had got learning, intending to be a priest, a guide for the blind, a light to them which are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, as having got the form of the literal knowledge, but destitute of the power, life, and spirit, without which I myself was blind and foolish, dead in sins and trespasses, till it pleased the Lord to reveal his son in me, in his holy, pure, and heavenly light, by which I came to see out of obscurity and darkness which was in my heart ; and the veil of iniquity which was over my mind came to be rent by his almighty power, that so I came to behold him whom my soul loved, not afar off, but nigh in me, in and through his holy, heavenly, quickening spirit, by which my soul was turned from darkness to light, and from Satan's power to his pure and holy power, grace, and truth, in my inward parts, in and through which he taught and enabled me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world. Glory and honour be to his name for evermore.

Now as the Lord, in his love and mercy, hath reached unto my soul and redeemed me out of the hands of my enemies, through the power of his strength, he also made me willing to deny myself in every respect, as to outward honour and preferment, which I could have enjoyed if I would have conformed to their way and worship, vain customs, and manners in life and conversation ; but the fear and dread of the Lord being upon me, I could no longer conform myself unto them, but I freely gave over my school-office and employment in teaching children, trusting that the Lord would not leave me nor forsake me, if I did faithfully follow him in the regeneration, which work I felt begun upon

my

my soul in and through his holy, heavenly spirit of grace and truth, manifested within me, because of which I counted all my former knowledge and honour as dross and dung, for the excellency of the truth and knowledge of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, whose power I felt operating in me to destroy the works of the devil, to serve him in holiness and righteousness, according to the measure of grace which he had given me and enabled me withal. And seeing myself like a pelican in the wilderness, and as a sparrow alone upon the house-top, sojourning in Mesheck and dwelling in the tents of Kedar, amongst a crooked and perverse generation, covered with gross darkness; the Lord raised a desire in my father-in-law to go out from amongst them, to those he had gathered to himself; so we left all for the love of truth, and he was with us in our journey, brought us safe and well with joy and gladness to his chosen people here in England*; where I now have been these six years, employed according to the Lord's good will and providence amongst tender children, to instruct them in necessary sciences appertaining to this life. What troubles and exercises within and without I have met with I willingly pass by, as being light and momentary in comparison of that inward comfort and blessing I have received of the Lord.

For he, in his endless love and mercy, hath in a very great measure satisfied the travail of my soul, and answered the earnest desire and breathings of my spirit, for the children of our family, that he in his goodness would be pleased to appear and manifest himself in his holy everlasting power, by which they might feel their hearts melted, tendered, and broken before him their Creator, to

* See an account of J. Matern, in the life of C. Taylor, Gough's History, volume iii. page 309.

fear and dread him in their youth, that at length that rough, perverse, disobedient, and stubborn spirit, which reigned in some of them to the grief and sorrow of our hearts, might be wrought out, and a meek, low, and humble spirit created in them, through the spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ; which we in the Lord's time have seen brought to pass, in and through the operation of his heavenly spirit, in our family meetings, whereof we have formerly borne our testimony, and bear the same at this time, that the power of the Lord is still felt and experienced in and amongst us in our meetings. O the glory of that first great and notable day of the blessed and powerful appearance of the Lord in and amongst the little ones of our family, the remembrance whereof makes glad my heart and rejoices my spirit. Blessed be his name for evermore; we cannot but speak well thereof, because of the favour of his life, which we still feel in the midst of us.

For the Lord hath not been with us as a stranger that stays but for a night; but we can say of a truth that he hath hitherto made his abode with us; the blessed effects upon the hearts and spirits of many witnesses confirm it: for instead of the thorn comes up the fir-tree, and instead of the brier comes up the myrtle, in as many as have submitted their hearts unto the power of God, bearing fruits of sobriety, righteousness, meekness, and godliness, in and through the blessed operation of his holy spirit, which he hath poured and is pouring forth upon them, to the glory and honour of his name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. Now the Lord hath been and is gracious unto our souls, and in his grace and love he daily reneweth his goodness unto us, manifesting himself in his love, life, and power, when we meet together in his holy heavenly fear. O how doth he shed abroad

abroad his love in our hearts ! How doth he revive our spirits, that many times we are ravished with his love, and so filled with his power, that our cups are made to overflow with praises and thanksgiving unto the Lord.

The desire of my soul is, that I and every one of us that have tasted of the good word and power of the world to come, by which we witness our hearts and minds in some measure changed into the image of the Son of God, who is the light and life of our souls, may never forget it, nor give him any occasion to withdraw his love and mercy from us ; but that his holy blessed work of regeneration may be carried on by the spirit of the Lord, that thus his praises may be perfected out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, unto whom he hath made known himself in his heavenly light and life, mercy and power, grace and truth, by which many of them may come to know the things of God, and of his spiritual kingdom, revealed within them in his holy power, righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, which things are hid from the wise and prudent of this world, because they hate and despise the light of Jesus Christ, in and through which alone they should receive the true and saving knowledge of God and his son Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal, wherein also the operating virtue of the Son of God is only effectually felt and witnessed, cleansing away all sin and iniquity, unto the saving of the soul from the wrath to come, that so an entrance may be ministered into the everlasting kingdom, wherein the righteous live with God in unspeakable joy. O that many of the young and tender ones here with us may be kept in the life and virtue, wisdom and power of the Lord, to the confusion of many in their earthly wisdom, and the conversion of them from their evil ways. O thou Shepherd of Israel,

lead them on gently and tenderly, and go before them as a shepherd goes before his flock, and lead them to the green pastures of life, that feeding there they may have light and life in them, and that they may have it more abundantly, and by it become an eternal excellency to thee, and a joy of many generations.

O Lord, I humbly beseech thee bless our godly undertakings, and endow us with thy heavenly wisdom, that we may bring them up in the nurture and admonition of thee. O bless this family here, and all the families of thine inheritance, every where, with heavenly and spiritual blessing in thy son Christ Jesus. O Lord keep, keep and preserve me, and every one of us, that have tasted of the sweet love and heavenly power by which our souls have been reached, convinced, and converted, faithful unto thyself: keep us always in a living sense of thy manifold mercies and tender love to us, that we may live in thy holy fear and never return to folly any more, but walk low and humble with thee, our God and tender Father in Christ Jesus. O Lord, establish our hearts with thy truth, that we may never depart from thee: season our souls with thy holy powerful word of grace, that all our words and works may be savoury and edifying: strengthen our inward man with might by thy spirit, that under the banner of thy love we may fight the good fight of faith and keep a good conscience, finish our course with joy, and receive the crown of righteousness which is laid up for all them that love thy appearance in thy heavenly light. So, O Lord, for all thy goodness and mercies and benefits, both spiritual and temporal, bestowed upon me and upon our family, my soul praises and glorifies, exalts, and magnifies thy holy name. Glory and honour, wisdom and power,

be

be unto thee, who art God over all, blessed for ever
and for evermore. Amen.

J. MATERN.

*Edmunton, 24th of the
Sixth Month 1680.*

He died about seven days after he brought in his testimony and caused it to be read amongst the scholars.

MY endeared friend and colleague, John Matern, being taken ill of a fever on the 24th of the Sixth Month 1680, was called out of this life the 1st day of the Seventh Month, a little after the seventh hour in the afternoon.

This is my testimony and belief concerning him, that he is entered into everlasting favour with the Lord, who in his life-time much regarded the honour of his Maker; and it was the delight of his soul to be employed either amongst young or old in his heavenly Father's business; and it was also his heart's delight and joy to have the opportunity to benefit others. He was a man very much dead to the world, the sense whereof I felt livingly upon my spirit, and I hope the comfortable fellowship and heart-gladdening society that I have had with him for these three years and more, wherein we have mutually enjoyed one another, will never be forgotten by me, but continue matter of praise and thanksgiving to the God of true unity, who was pleased to bless us together and work our spirits into an oneness, so that I may truly say my dear friend (to my knowledge) was never exercised one way or another with sorrow or grief, but my soul was engaged to sympathize with him and to feel

the weight of his burthens ; and then we both breathed together to the God of grace, whose mercies are infinite, till he in his tender bowels of compassion was pleased to afford ease and relief ; and as in his life-time we were knit together in our spirits, so at his death our love was not abated, but more strong than ever.

About four hours before he departed, we kept our family-meeting in the room where he lay, it being his desire, and there enjoyed one another in the Lord, to the melting and tendering (I believe) the hearts of all that were present ; and in the time of the meeting he was filled with divine praises ; and the heavenly presence was felt supporting his spirit all the time of his sickness, but more especially during the time of the meeting, so that he was first exercised in singing praises to the Lord, and in magnifying his great power evidenced in himself and in this family : his cries were strong, that the Lord might carry on his blessed work begun therein ; and he besought the Lord to prosper his truth daily, more and more, every where, till all were subjected thereunto, which he declared should come to pass : he likewise confessed the many singular favours he had partaken of in this family, and with regret bemoaned his absence from it, that he should have so long wandered, not knowing his place and service in the body. When the children were all sitting round about him in the meeting, his heart was open and large towards them, in exhorting and beseeching of them to persevere and go on in the name and the authority of the mighty God, and that they might be faithful unto him in their measures, and not to despise the day of small things, but as they were faithful in a little, more should be added : his mouth and heart was full of praises to the Highest for many particular mercies, but more especially that he had received the knowledge

ledge of the everlasting truth; and had walked in it for some time, perfectly and uprightly in his measure, for which at that time he declared he had the testimony of a good conscience, and was entering into eternal peace with the Lord, which I do firmly believe, and without doubting am persuaded it is true; and it is the desire of my heart, that I may so walk in my generation, that in the end I may enjoy such a comfortable death as he did.

It is as hard a trial as ever I met with, which I desire may be sanctified of the Lord; but now am well satisfied that he is gone into everlasting bliss, to be with the Lord for ever.

And it is the belief of my heart, whenever it shall please the Lord to call me out of the body, that as we were lovely together in this life, that for ever we shall be joined (as I am preserved faithful) in more nearness than could be enjoyed here, to sing praises to God and the Lamb for ever.

A. PATTERSON.

*Edmunton, the 2d of the
Seventh Month 1680.*

DEAR John Matern died not as a fool dieth, that feared not the living God, but his heart was bent to seek after a city, whose builder and maker is God. He made his calling and election sure, and a good favour he has left behind him, and his works follow him. He was a diligent man in his vocation, and very zealous for God's glory, and through the mercy of the Lord missed not of it; so that when he lay on his death-bed, the glory of the Lord overshadowed him, and his innocent cries were unto him that all might be kept faithful that professed his name, and more particularly, that both

both small and great in our family might be preserved to the Lord. And his praising God with a raised voice, by the assistance of his power, I believe I shall never forget ; methinks mine ears are full of them still, hearing the sound of that sweet harmonious melody, when if God's power had not enabled him, he said he was scarce able to move his tongue. He gave heavenly exhortations to the young ones, to persevere and go on in obedience to the Lord, in that truth they had received ; and encouraged his honest and faithful companion and assistant to go on in the work of the Lord. I dearly loved him, because of his simplicity and lowliness of mind, his faithfulness and diligence in his place, and because his heavenly care was entirely to do good. When I remember how like an innocent child he was in his place, my soul breaks within me, and I am melted even into great tenderness and love unto him, more than tongue can utter or pen set forth of the excellency of this love. He was a very wise and learned man as to outward learning ; but how he denied himself, and how humbly he behaved ; how free he was from priding himself, because of his great parts and endowments as a man ! I can say according to my judgment he went before many. Well ! he is gone, and in the name of the Lord he blessed the family he lived in, and praised God that placed him in it, such blessed things he acknowledged he had been partaker of in it ; and after he had done his work, he went to his father, even as an innocent lamb, unconcerned about his death, as fearing it not, but, on the contrary, praising God for the trust he had in his power, telling us how certain he was of eternal salvation. The glory of the Lord's power rested upon his spirit, and sweetly did he give up the ghost.

O blessed

O blessed art thou my dear companion, my foul loved thee and embraced thee, and I love thee still, and thy life is with us. I pray God that the sincerity which was in thee may remain in thousands and ten thousands, that God's host in this day may be innumerable.

God is with us, and we know, though we may be taken out of this life according to his pleasure, yet his truth and faithfulness depart not from the families of his faithful ones, who can truly say they seek his sweet face and countenance, and glory in all things, and we can say that the secret hand of the Lord works not against us but for us. O my soul be glad in the God of thy mercies ; everlasting praises be to his name for evermore.

C. T.

*Edmunton, the 8th of the
Seventh Month 1680.*

DEAR friends and children, but especially ye children of this family, it is upon me to relate something unto you of my exercise, which I have gone through, since the Lord put it into our hearts to take upon us the education of children ; and indeed the very first step into it was with fear and trembling : but though I was very tender, the Lord hath called me to a blessed work, and hath assisted us by his mighty power and outstretched arm to this very day. O the days of sighing and mourning that I have gone through amongst disorderly servants and children, that sometimes I did not well know how it was with me, whether I went backwards or forwards in my condition ; O the travail, the travail in my way to Zion, that indeed sometimes I was almost ready to despair ; but it pleased the Lord to arise,

arise, in his mighty power, to strengthen and encourage and uphold me in his blessed work ; and when his glorious light shone round about me, I girt up the loins of my mind and was encouraged to walk in his way, and then I thought I should run swiftly ; when exercises came again, and when the fogs and mists arose, and the sun was darkened, that I could not see which way to go, then did I cry unto the Lord, that he would be pleased to keep me in his blessed truth ; for I said in my heart, that it should be my resolution never to turn again to folly : thus I passed on through much difficulty, and the Lord did mightily uphold me, but sometimes I knew it not ; and indeed when I have beheld others eating of the dainties of God's house, I have been ready to murmur, and say, O Lord, why do I fare so hardly, my meat being bitter herbs, and of an unsavory taste ? Thus I travelled in sorrow through a long winter, and in the Lord's blessed time, he was pleased to arise, with healing under his wings, and did scatter the clouds, by his mighty power and outstretched arm ; and of that which we have been labouring for among children, we have seen a blessed increase, and I can truly say, it is God's heavenly interest, praised be his name for evermore.

For he hath made his work easy and delightful to us, for his arm is about us day and night, and his sun is arisen upon us, our days are very sweet, and we can look back upon our exercises and dark places, and behold them with delight ; for the Lord hath been and is abundantly kind unto us, praises be to his name for evermore.

A blessed time, and happy is it, for all them that fear the Lord, for thou, O Lord ! hast made our days sweet, and thy blessed work easy unto us, for we can sing of thy mercies all the day long, and behold the work of thy own right hand to prosper, and the

the fruits of our labour to flourish as a rose ; we can glory in thee for evermore. And when the work of our day is pleasantly over, at evening-tide, when Shiloh's brook runs softly, as it is our wonted practice, we assemble together before the Lord, with our family and children, rendering thanks for his manifold blessings upon us and his tender plants ; and when he ariseth in his mighty power, his bedewings descend, and his fatness drops from heaven and overcomes our hearts, enliventh our souls and bodies, that every member may magnify his holy name. O blessed day indeed ! Can we desire more than we have, or ask more than we receive ? Oh no ; the Lord hath been abundantly kind, and hath filled our hearts with his heavenly treasure ; for now we can gather grapes off our own vines, and they are pleasant to our taste. O what shall we render unto thee, O Lord ! for thou art worthy of all honour and praise, and with all that we have and are, we give the glory unto thee, for ever and evermore.

Now I have a testimony lives in my heart for dear John Matern, whom the Lord hath taken away, a dear man indeed, one that truly feared him and was a faithful steward ; and when he came to lie upon his death-bed he had reaped an hundred fold, and he brought in his increase with much rejoicing into the store-house of the Lord, yea, with great joy. The last day of his appointed time, I myself was much with him ; he was weak and scarce able to stir his tongue, but the glory of the Lord shone round about him, that he lay praising the Lord, and the harmony of heaven was in his mouth, so that he was raised above his weakness, the sting of death being taken away ; we had a sweet meeting with him, as other testimonies will further relate, with many of the children and

a part

a part of the family ; when he found himself almost spent with the blessed exercise that was upon him, he held up his hands, and we caused them to depart the room ; then he lay still and slumbered a little time, and when he stirred I went to him : he desired me not to speak, except to praise and magnify the Lord ; I asked him if he knew me, he smiled upon me and said " Yea," and I said, " Thou liest sweetly," he again answered " Yea ;" as I remember, these were the last words he spoke, so he lay a little time and went sweetly away.

FRANCES TAYLOR.

I have a few lines to write concerning my dear husband.

He was an upright-hearted man in his doings ; he served the Lord with all his heart, and was faithful in his place to every one he was concerned with, to do them good ; and it was his greatest delight to see truth prosper, especially amongst the young ones, with whom he was concerned : it was his greatest joy and satisfaction to see the Lord's power breaking in upon them, so that he could not but praise and glorify the Lord many a time for it ; often upon his death-bed he lay praising and glorifying the Lord, for his great mercies bestowed upon him.

And although I have lost a dear and tender husband, who was very tender over me, yet (being in the Lord's will) I am content, in that he now reaps the reward which he travelled for, in forsaking his country and his father's house, to come amongst a people that served the Lord with uprightness of heart ; he had his desire answered,

and

and with great joy and peace he departed this life,
and is gone into everlasting happiness, to be with
the Lord for ever and evermore.

ROSINA MATERN.

THIS is my testimony concerning my dear teacher John Matern.

That he was a man that feared God, with the uprightness of his heart, and his greatest travail was to do his will, making it manifest amongst us, and telling us what the Lord would have us to do, and exhorting us to leave off the evil of our doings, and to follow and fear him ; and it was his greatest joy if he saw any of us bring forth a testimony for the Lord ; O how would it refresh him, yea, that he could not forbear, but praise the Lord before he went out of meeting ! And if there were any that did grieve the Lord's spirit and rebel against him, then he would be so grieved and troubled that he could scarce take his rest upon his bed. I can truly say that he was a man that sought the welfare of our souls and bodies too, and he taught us with all the might he had, and that faithfully, and if he found out a nearer way he told it us ; and if there be any that have not improved their time, the fault is theirs, and not his, for he did as much as he could for us ; and when he was upon his death-bed, he exhorted us to fear God, and he praised and glorified the God of heaven unto the last breath ; so that the Lord hath taken this good man out of this world, and he is gone to his rest in peace with the Lord Jesus Christ, where is joy for ever and evermore.

THOMAS GREEN.

Sixteen Years Old.

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MY

MY testimony concerning my lately deceased master John Matern.

He was a man that truly feared the Lord, and was an instrument in his hand for the help of others. He laboured daily for us his scholars, both for our souls and bodies ; he taught us with diligence, that we might not frustrate the intent of our coming to school, as to learning ; and prayed continually to the Lord, that we might be edified as to our condition. O what an end he made ! he was full of praises, and songs of joy to the Lord, and I am satisfied that his reward was the greater, for his labour and prayers for us ; he is with the Lord and blessed of him for ever.

WILLIAM PENNINGTON.

Fifteen Years Old.

*The 10th of the Seventh
Month 1680.*

THIS day the spirit of the Lord giveth me utterance, that I can bear a testimony for my deceased teacher John Matern.

This I can say of a truth, he was an upright man in his generation, serving God with his whole heart : he had a very great care that he might teach faithfully, that so he might not bring any guilt upon his conscience ; and moreover he had a great travail in the Lord for us who were under his tuition, that we who felt the power of God in us, which had in some measure regenerated and changed us, might walk uprightly and according to the truth : he also had a travail for them that had not felt the power of God to change them, but were yet in rebellion against it, that they might come to feel themselves in some measure changed ; and his travail

travail was great for the prosperity of truth every where, and we whom he taught find a great want of him, but the Lord supplieth it. About four hours before he died we had a meeting with him, where, he being raised up by the power of God (though very weak in body, yet of perfect understanding) he exhorted us with a mighty power, that most (I believe I may say all) were broken and tendered before the Lord ; and all the while I was with him he did sing heavenly praises unto the Lord, and died in the faith of Christ Jesus the son of God ; in the consideration thereof my soul cannot but render to the God of heaven glory and dominion for ever. Amen.

PHILIP DYMOND.

Fourteen Years Old.

*The 13th of the Seventh
Month 1680,*

THIS is my testimony concerning our dear teacher John Matern, who is lately departed out of this earthly tabernacle.

That he was a righteous man, walking uprightly with the Lord his creator : he was a man with whom the Lord was, both in his goings out and his comings in ; this I can truly say in living experience, he was averse to all manner of evil, but cherished the good as the apple of his eye ; wherefore I am sensible that he is departed in peace (though I was not here at the day of his death) and is now at rest in heaven, where no unclean thing can ever enter. The Lord pleased to put this in my heart to write concerning our dear and well-beloved teacher.

JOHN BUTCHER.
Fourteen Years Old.

THIS I have to say for my dear teacher John Matern.

That he was an upright man ; one that feared God and eschewed evil ; one that laboured for the good of the souls of them that he taught : he taught them inward as well as outward knowledge. He was a true labourer in the Lord, and one that preached his holy name unto us, and made it known ; but now he is gone out of this body, he hath laid down his head in peace, and is at rest with the everlasting Father. I can truly say, that he hath been much troubled when any of the boys had been disorderly, and would often exhort them to fear the Lord. He was a man that spent himself much for us ; but now he is repayed for it. He would often cry unto the Lord, that we might all fear him, from the least unto the greatest ; and the last day he lived he praised the Lord ; and we had a meeting in his chamber, which he desired, and he did exhort and pray for us. He was a righteous man ; the Lord hath blessed him, blessed be his name for it. O how would he strive against the adversary, to the praise of the Lord and honour of his name, in whom he trusted and had his life and being.

THOMAS HUTSON.

Fourteen Years Old.

MY testimony concerning my dear master John Matern is as followeth.

He was a just and upright man in his generation, fearing God and hating evil : he cherished the good and punished the evil, in whomsoever of his scholars he found it, without respect of persons. On his death-bed he enjoyed peace unutterable.

He

He hath fought the good fight of faith, and kept his garments clean from the spots of this world, and is entered into rest and joy with his Maker for ever, which no man can deprive him of.

EDWARD PENNINGTON.

Thirteen Years Old.

THIS I have to speak to the praise of the Lord God and his truth, as concerning our dear teacher John Matern

He was a man that feared the Lord, that walked in his path ; and I can truly say the Lord was with him, and the last day that he lived he lived to the praise of his name.

O that all people would arise, for the name of the Lord, that none may stick in the deep pit of darkness, that none may stay behind, but come with his people, and walk hand in hand with them, and so press forward to the mark Christ Jesus, as this man did, who is gone to his rest in peace.

O Lord ! it hath pleased thee to take away one of thy servants, who served thee in uprightness of heart, I humbly pray thee, carry on thy blessed work in the hearts of thy children ! Thy presence is with us at this time ! And O pluck up the root of iniquity, and throw down the great tree of wickedness, that is growing in the hearts of people, that thy works may prosper, and the light of thy countenance shine through the nations ; raise up more witnesses for thyself, that all may fall down before thee and magnify thy name, who art God over all, blessed for evermore.

WILLIAM LOOSVELT.

Twelve Years Old.

THIS testimony do I bear for my teacher John Matern.

That he was a just and an upright man, one that feared God and eschewed evil in his day and generation, and that the Lord was with him in his doings, and he did that which was right in his sight, and he supported him and carried him through all trials : he hath done the Lord's work faithfully, and now is gone to his rest prepared for him in Jesus Christ ; he hath been laying up a treasure, and now he enjoys it ; he hath heard the joyful sentence, Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful in a few things, I will make thee ruler over much ; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. So now he is entered into the joy of his Lord, and is happy for ever, and magnified be his name, for redeeming him out of the jaws of Satan ; and I wish all may make such an end as he did, then will they be blessed of the Lord to all eternity, world without end.

JOHN CROUCH.

About the Age of Twelve Years.

I HAVE a testimony concerning my dear school-master John Matern, who is departed out of this life and lives with God for evermore.

He was a blessed man, one that I believe feared God and eschewed evil, as Job did. Oh ! he was a good man ; I believe the fear of the Lord was always before his eyes. He is in a better place than we are yet in, for he is with God the Father, where the fulness of all joy and comfort is. O that we may all be as faithful to the Lord in our places as he was, and then he will gather us to himself ; we shall be blessed of him and receive the sentence,

Well

Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful in a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. It is a blessed sentence to all them that receive it, as he hath. How sorry he used to be if he saw any of us do amiss, it would very much grieve him; but when he saw any of us do well, he would be glad, and encourage us therein: so I cannot but give God the glory, the honour, and praise, both now, for ever, and evermore.

EZEKIEL WOOLLEY, Jun.
Eleven Years Old.

A TESTIMONY concerning my late deceased master John Matern.

He was a man that feared the Lord, and was very serviceable in his place; and I can truly say, he was a fit instrument in the hand of the Lord, and taught us his scholars with all diligence. In his life-time he laboured through hardships, that we might be educated in the truth, as well as in other things; and I believe he died in the Lord, and his reward follows him; for assuredly he did bless him, and will bless all others that lived as he did.

O that we may all walk as he did, in the way of Christ, and follow his steps for ever! I can say, with many more of my school-fellows, that we never desired a better tutor than he was. When I heard he lay upon his sick bed, many times I have cried to the Lord in my heart, to raise him up again; but it hath been his will to take him away, and now he is at peace for ever.

JOHN WOOLLEY.
Ten Years Old.

I HAVE

I HAVE this to say for my dear teacher John Matern.

He was one that lived in the fear of the Lord, and when he lay upon his death-bed he glorified the Lord, and made sweet melody in his soul ; we had a blessed meeting, and the presence of the Lord was amongst us. Oh ! he was a blessed man indeed, he had made it manifest, for in his life-time it was his greatest joy to see his scholars grow up in the fear of the Lord ; and if he saw the enemy prevail over any, he would with grief of heart admonish them to return and repent, that they might find mercy, and beseech them to have a care lest the enemy should prevail again ; he also was greatly exercised, if any of his scholars did not mind their business and learning as to the outward, and would encourage them that did. Assuredly, he preached righteousness in his life and conversation ; he hath made his calling and election sure, and now is at rest ; for he hath left a good favour behind him, and the remembrance of him is blessed ; he is gone to the Lord, and is at peace with him for ever and evermore.

MARGARET ROUSE.

Twelve Years Old.

O LORD ! thy love is unspeakable, when thou scatterest the clouds, and makest the rain to descend, as upon the tender grass, and visitest us with the day-spring from on high, then are we constrained to praise thy name ; thou refreshest us from time to time, for we have none in heaven but thee, nor in the earth in comparison of thee ; we have fresh encouragement to follow after thee ; thou hast often broken our hearts before thee the

living

living God, and has caused abundance of melting tears and gladness amongst us ; and we can say, that one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere ; and it is better to be a door-keeper in thy house than dwell in the tents of wickedness. O Lord ! what shall we say unto thee, or what shall we render unto thee for thy mercies, for thy arm of power hath been about us to this very day.

Thy hand is not slackened, nor thy ear dull, to hear the sighing of the needy : thou lookest down upon them with an eye of pity and compassion, and thy love is the same that ever it was unto thy children, and thy all-seeing eye is every where and in every place to watch over them, who art the watchman of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest, but feedest thy sheep, and makest them to lie down in the green pastures of life. O that when we depart out of this world we may lay down our heads in peace with thee, as the blessed man John Matern hath done, who is deceased.

He is gone to his resting-place, who was faithful to the end of his days, and when he had finished his course in this world the Lord took him to himself. O how pleasantly he lay upon his bed praising the Lord, whom he served in his life-time ; he laboured for our good every way, and is gone to a very pleasant habitation, where he will have joy for ever.

MARY TAYLOR.

Ten Years Old.

SOME

SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
EXERCISES
OF
MARY PENNINGTON,
FROM HER CHILDHOOD.

Written in 1680.

THE first scripture that I remember taking notice of, was, *Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.* This I heard taken for a text when about eight years of age. I was brought up by careless Protestants, yet observant of superstitious customs, days of feasting and fasting. I afterwards went to live with more religious people, who would not admit of sports on the first day of the week; and having a zealous maid-servant, who read sermons between the times of assembling together, I diligently attended thereto; and having been accustomed to use the Lord's-Prayer on many occasions, something within shewed me that I knew not what true prayer was; for what I read out of a book, an ungodly man might do. My mind was deeply exercised, and in great distress cried aloud, Lord, what is prayer? I wept and was in trouble about it, for I never heard of any that prayed, but by composing a prayer; after this it came into my mind to write one myself (though I had learned so little a time I could scarcely join my letters) which was something of this nature, that as the Lord commanded

manded the Israelites to offer a morning sacrifice, so I offered prayer, desiring to be preserved that day; this gave me ease for a little time, and the next prayer I wrote was for the assurance of pardon for my sins; and hearing a person preach of God's pardoning sin by his free grace, I was much affected therewith, it appearing a desirable thing; so I wrote a pretty large prayer concerning it; yet I began again to question whether I prayed right or not, and was much troubled about it: then it sprang in my mind that to use words according to the sense I had, was prayer, which I attempted to do, but could not, sometimes kneeling down a long time, and had not a word to say. I had none to reveal myself to nor advise with, but bore a great burden, till one day, as I was sitting at work in a parlour, a person came in who was against the superstition of the times, and looking sorrowful, mentioned some innocent people who were sentenced to have their ears cut and to be banished; the account sunk deep in me, that I could not sit at my work, but was strongly inclined to go into a private room, and, shutting the door, kneeled down and poured out my soul to the Lord. I was wonderfully melted, and I felt peace and acceptance with him, and that this was prayer which I never was acquainted with before, either in myself or from any one. About this time I went several miles on foot, and through much suffering, to hear a puritan preacher, being no longer easy to hear the priest where we dwelt, which the governors of the family were much disturbed at, and made me the subject of their discourse in companies, that I would pray with the spirit and reject godly men's prayers, was proud, a schismatic, &c. At this time I suffered not only from these persons (to whom I was committed by my parents when I was about three years of age) but also from my
companions

companions and kindred; yet I continued zealous in refusing vain company, card-playing, and other diversions, and was a strict keeper of the sabbath, not daring to eat such things as occasioned trouble, or taking up time, on that day, which is set apart for worship. I did not accept propositions of marriage by vain persons, desiring of the Lord I might have one that feared him, not regarding their reproaches who would say to me, that no gentlemen were in this way, and that I would have some mean person or other; but they were disappointed, for the Lord touched the heart of William Springett, who became my husband, and mine cleaved to him for the Lord's sake. He was of good understanding, and cast off those dead superstitions that were manifested to him, beyond any I then knew of his rank and age, being but about twenty years old. When joined in marriage, we refused the ring, and such things then used. He lived about two years, in which time we were daily exercised in what we judged to be the service and worship of God, scrupling many things in use, as singing David's Psalms in metre, the Common-Prayer, &c. as being the invention of vain poets; finding songs of praise must spring from the same source as prayer, and so could not use the songs any more than the prayers; were also brought off the ceremony of bread and wine, and baptism with water; we looked into the Independents way, and saw death there, that it was not what our souls sought, nor answered the cry of our hearts; and in this state my husband died, hoping in the promises afar off, not seeing or knowing him who is invisible to be so near him, and that it was he who shewed unto him his thoughts, and made manifest the good and the evil. I refused to have my dear daughter Gulielma sprinkled, which brought great reproach upon me, that I was a bye-word and hissing amongst

amongst people of my own rank, and a strange thing to my relations and acquaintance ; such as were accounted able ministers, whom I had formerly delighted to hear, were sent to persuade me, but I could not do it. I continued some years under great exercise, and in that state I married my dear husband Isaac Pennington ; my love was drawn to him, because I found he saw the deceit of all notions, and lay as one that refused to be comforted by any appearance of religion, until he came to his temple who is truth and no lie.—We heard of a new people called Quakers, who I intended never to have meddled with, setting my mind against their doctrines, taking up the cross to the language, fashions, customs, titles, honours, and esteem in the world ; the station I stood in with my relations, &c. made it appear very hard ; but finding them truly of the Lord, my heart owned and longed to be one of them, not minding the cost and pain if I could but witness such a change as I saw in them ;—and by taking up the cross, I received strength in things I thought not possible to deny ; but many tears did I shed, and bitterness of soul did I know, before this, and have cried out, “ I shall one day fall by the overpowering of the enemy ;” but, O the joy that filled my heart at the first meeting in our habitation at Chalfont ! I have a fresh remembrance of it in the sense the Lord had given me, of living to worship him in that which is undoubtedly his own ; for long had I desired in full assurance to lift up my hands without doubting, which I witnessed, and that day acknowledged the greatness of his mercy, who enabled me to say, this is what I have longed for and waited to find.

MARY PENNINGTON.

A
SHORT ACCOUNT
OF THE
DEALINGS OF THE LORD
WITH
SUSANNA WHITROW,

About the Age of Fifteen ;
Daughter of ROBERT and JOAN WHITROW, in
Covent-Garden, in the County of Middlesex.

*Published for the Warning and Good of others, who are in the
same Condition she was in before her Sickness.*

SUSANNA WHITROW fickened the 5th of the Third Month 1697, and lay until the ninth day, under the judgment and terrors of the Lord for sin and iniquity, and about four in the afternoon she broke forth with great earnestness, crying to the Lord for mercy, "Lord, are my sins forgiven? Had not mine eyes seen those vanities, my heart had not gone after them; shall I have no help for my distress? Strengthen thou me but to see my desires;" with other wonderful expressions, for about three hours, when he was pleased to hear and answer the desire of her soul. Having thus obtained mercy, she fell into an exceeding travail of spirit on behalf of her father, praying after this manner: "Lord, remember not his offences, let me bear them; make his friends to be his enemies, that thou mayest have mercy on him;

him ; carry him through, and let him not perish with the world. Blessed Lord, hear me ; leave me not unsatisfied, but grant my request : set his mind on things above ; turn him, and he will be turned: there is no way for him but to watch and pray continually, lest the tempter prevail." Then addressing her mother, said, " Oh my bowed-down and broken-hearted mother ! What have been thy sufferings in this family ! Oh ! how hast thou been oppressed with our iniquities ! Ah ! bowed down ! how often hast thou told my father, the Lord would visit him with sore and grievous judgment if he did not repent and turn from the evil of his ways ! How often hast thou said, the Lord would plead thy righteous cause with us ! Now the day is come thou hast so long warned us of; now the Lord is broke in upon us. Oh, how great hath been thy care and pains, which thou hast taken to bring us into the fear of the Lord ! great shall be thy reward ; the Lord will give thee beauty for ashes, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness : blessed be thou my mother." Her mother being at that time praising and magnifying the Lord, she said, " My blessed mother, now is that vision fulfilled, which the Lord shewed thee concerning me, that my soul should bless thee, and thy foul should bless the Lord." Then she broke forth into sweet melody, singing praises unto the Lord. " Blessed are the poor in spirit ; Lord, I am poor, I am needy ; I need thy strength continually to withstand the tempter. O Lord ! stand by me, move not from me ; for if thou go, the tempter will come ; I will hold thee fast ; thou art my Saviour ; thou shalt save me from the tempter. My dear mother, send for the friend (meaning R. T.) that prayed by me the other day : she is a precious woman ; I love her ; let her pray by me to the Lord against the tempter : and send for

W. P. the Lord will hear the prayers of the faithful ; but I have been unfaithful. O, how often have I sinned against my Saviour, the light in my conscience, which shewed me the way I should walk in ! How often hath he knocked at my stony heart, saying, this is my blessed truth, which the Quakers preach, by which all souls that I have made shall be saved. Then have I said in my heart, after such a thing and such a thing is accomplished, I will leave off my life of vanity, and become a new creature. Oh ! I was she that trusted in lying vanities. I thought I should have long life, and then I did intend to serve the Lord in my old age.

“ Oh ! how have I been against a woman’s speaking in a meeting ! But now, whether the truth be delivered by man, woman, or child, it is precious indeed.

“ O Lord ! my strength faileth, I wait upon thee, renew my strength ; be pleased to restore me to my former health, then will I wait diligently upon thee : I will sit as on the ground, with my head as in the dunghill ; I will never lift up my soul to vanity ; my heart shall never go after the sight of my eyes. My dear mother pray for me ; for whatsoever thou askest of the Lord it shall be given thee.

“ My dear mother, thou often hast told us of the terrible and dreadful day of the Lord God that is at hand. O, it will be a dreadful day to the wicked of all sorts ; the Lord hath shewed it me. Wo to the children of scoffers ! for as it was in Elisha’s day, so shall it be in this the day of the Lord’s power—the bears out of the woods shall devour them.” And trembling she said, “ I feel thy terrible power, O God ; strike dread, terror, and astonishment in the hearts of thy enemies, in all workers of iniquity, who make a derision of thy

thy people, and take pleasure in their abominable ways, which thou abhorrest. O my mother, I have heard God's thundering power rattle upon the heads of his enemies. A wo will be to the children of pride in that day ; and wo will be to the blind guides that wear the long robes, the false teachers of this nation. Did not our blessed Lord say, if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch ? Ah, Lord ! how should it be otherwise ? for they hate the light, and count it an insufficient thing. Did not our blessed Saviour say, believe in the light, that you may be the children of the light ? and he bid them all watch and pray, lest they enter into temptation. And how could they watch without the light ? for they could not see the tempter when he came in the dark. Ah, that scripture is fulfilled upon this people, that darkness should cover the earth, and gross darkness the people ; and then night shall be unto them that they should not have visions, and the day shall be dark that you shall not divine. And this was Egypt's darkness. Yet the children of Israel had light in the land of Goshen. Extolled be thy name thou God of power ; if thou wilt be pleased to restore me to my former strength, then I will speak of thy wonderful power ; yea, my voice shall be as the sound of a trumpet, desirous of converting sinners unto thee."

Then taking somewhat to drink, she lay still a little time, and broke forth with joy in her heart, making sweet melody to the Lord, but not uttering any words ; then she broke forth into praising and magnifying his great works.

" O that house of abominations, that playhouse, where they commit their abominable whoredoms, God will destroy it." Her mother said, " What house my dear child ?" She answered, " That church as they call it in Covent-Garden,

the members thereof are proud persons, and covetous, and deceitful, liars, drunkards, and whoremongers : ah ! my blessed Saviour said, we should know them by their fruits. O these were my fruits, which I brought forth when I was a hearer of that church, pride and disobedience to my parents. How often have I adorned myself as fine in their fashions as I could make me ! yet they have looked upon me with scorn, and despised my dres, and said unto me, How you have dressed yourself ! you are not at all in the mode. Then I came home, and have gone immediately into my chamber, locked the door, and altered all my laces, and so I have gone to their worship in their mode, and then I have pleased them. Pray my mother call my father, I have something to say to him : I desire my body may be laid among the people of the Lord called Quakers ; for now I tremble before the Lord and his holiness. Come ye holy prophets, who were Tremblers at the word of the Lord ; come Moses, Jeremiah, and Habakkuk, now I am one in spirit with you ; now my heart drops, because of the Lord, and the greatness of his majesty.

“ O, my Lord ! yea, my Lord ! for so I can call thee, because thou rulest in me, and my soul is subject to thee : but they have many lords and many gods ; they have gods of silver and gods of gold, the work of their own hands.

“ O, my heavenly Father ! I wait upon thee ; renew my strength, holy Father ; be pleased to restore me to my former health ; then I will wait diligently upon thee. The reason why I desire to live is, because I have so greatly dishonoured the Lord in my former life, and now I would live the rest of my time to his praise ; for I shall be as one raised from the dead, to declare his wonders : but what

what shall I say? Though one should rise from the dead, they will not believe."

These words the maid-servant wrote down as she spoke them : " Father, the priests that deceive the people study all the week what to say when Sunday cometh ; but the day of the Lord is coming, that he will confound all their study and all their wisdom, and in that day they shall not be heard for their much speaking ; they are physicians of no value.

" My dear mother, I fear I shall not have a place so near the Lord as my soul desires ; for I am sensible, there are degrees of glory ; and as the creature acts here for the Lord, so shall its reward be hereafter. I have done nothing for the Lord, but he hath done all for me ; therefore I desire to live, that I might live a holy and righteous life, that my conversation might be in heaven, though my body be here on the earth ; that I might invite all, as David did, to taste and see how good the Lord is. They have tasted of their perishing life of vanities, yea, they have drank a full cup, their measure is running over, but they never tasted the joys, the unspeakable ravishments of soul, that attend the humble holy life of Jesus. Oh ! if they had ever tasted the least mite thereof, they would bid adieu to all their life of vanity ; ah, they would not dare to spend their precious time in adorning themselves like Jezebels, patching and painting and curling their heads : but the Christian life is another thing ; they must not give themselves liberty to think their own thoughts, much less to act such abominations as these."

After she had lain awhile, praising and magnifying the Lord, then she spoke very deep and weighty things, which are not set down, concerning the wise virgins and their lamps burning, and exhorting all to keep very diligently upon their watch ;

" for,"

" for," said she, " the Lord will come as a thief in the night, and in a day when he is not looked for ; therefore watch and pray continually ; here the tempter cannot enter ; this is the *way* my Saviour spake of when he said, *You must take up your daily cross* ; this is that flaming sword you must *pass through*, mark that, you must *pass through* it before you can come to the tree of life ; this is the *cup* my Saviour asked if you would drink of, and this was that *baptism* he asked if you could be baptized withal. Come all you that call yourselves Christians, what of the life of holy Jesus is in you, who was a man of sorrows ? You light and airy ones, you wild and wanton ones, you that are lovers of pleasures more than God, you workers of iniquity, who are always crying Lord, Lord, but do not the things that I say, this shall be your dreadful doom, that you are fayers, but not doers : you workers of iniquity, that think ye can never have enough of the pride of life, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, which is not of my heavenly Father, and so you are of your father the devil, for his servants you are whom ye obey." At another time she said, " I have heard them say, that my mother is so grounded in her religion that it is impossible ever to turn her.

" Come, my blessed mother, I have something to say to thee.—Mary had chosen that good part which shall never be taken from thee ; O, what portion is like this ? This is more than to sit on the thrones of princes.

" *Be ye holy as I the Lord your God am holy* : this they say is impossible. O, would the holy, just, and true Lord command that which is impossible ? In this they count the Lord a hard master. But what can my soul say of thy power, when I sought thee but could not find thee, I knocked hard but none would open ? For my sins stood like mountains,

tains, that I could not come near thee : I would fain have prayed, but could not. I lay several days and nights prostrate before thee, struggling for life, but could find none ; and I said, there is no mercy for me ; then said I, I will never leave thee ; if I perish I will perish here ; I will never cease crying unto thee. Then I heard a voice say, Jacob wrestled all night before he obtained the blessing. O then thy word was strength to my soul ; then my stony heart was broken to pieces before the Lord ; then the spirit of prayer and supplication was poured into my soul ; and now I can sing, as David did, of mercy and judgment ; unto thee, O Lord, will I sing, with a rended heart, and my mouth in the dust, will I sing praises unto thee my blessed Saviour."

For several days she had a very great conflict in soul and spirit concerning the tempter, and strong were her cries to the Lord for strength to overcome the enemy. She was so deeply engaged in the holy war of the Lord, that she would not suffer her head to be removed from her pillow, but said, it must be as it were nailed there till she had overcome the tempter. She said, " I would not suffer a thought to wander ; if I move I shall be drawn off my watch, and then the tempter will prevail." Then she had a vision, and as it were the appearance of an angel, giving us the full description thereof, which we have forgot, only that it was arrayed in white. She had also a vision of the tempter, which she said stood before her bound in chains. Then she said, " It is finished, I have overcome, my Saviour hath bound him." Then she broke forth into blessing and praising and magnifying the Lord, that it is beyond the tongue of utterance to give a relation thereof. For many days and nights together she would hardly slumber, but would waken herself to sing praises unto the Lord,

Lord, and to declare of his wondrous works that he hath done for her soul.

Some friends came into the room, but she saw them not ; and after many sweet and precious words, she said, “ Don’t you feast, but fast and pray, and be you contented with mean things. O what matter for fine houses or silken apparel ! Remember him that sat on the ground, but wore a garment without a seam, our blessed holy Lord, who went up to the mountain to pray, that withdrew into gardens and desolate places of the earth, my soul hath fellowship with him. O my dear mother, if it please our dear and heavenly Father to spare me this time, we will get us into the country, to some remote place, amongst the woods, where none but the Lord can hear us ; then shall our cries pierce through the heavens, which shall make the earth to ring, and the birds shall hear the echo thereof : there my blessed mother, will we sing praises with rended hearts, and our mouths in the dust, to the one holy Lord.

“ Lord, if it be thy holy pleasure to take me out of this life, then let me have, I beseech thee, one whole day, that my tongue may never cease praising thee.” And the Lord answered her request.

All that day she was wonderfully filled with the sweet solace of the heavenly life, singing praises and hallelujahs to the Lord, and spoke very much concerning the Lamb and his followers, who had washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb ; and towards the evening, while the power of the Lord was upon her, there came in two persons to see her, when she uttered many precious heavenly words, and in great weightiness of spirit said, “ O Israel, what hath thy God done for thee ? ” Then taking up a lamentation, said, “ What shall we do for the daughters

of

of Jerusalem, who are haughty and go with out-stretched necks and wanton eyes?"

After several days lying in a sweet solace, she expressed these words, " O thou beloved of my soul ! what shall I say of thee, for thou art too wonderful for me ? Praises be unto thee. Come all ye holy prophets, praise the Lord with me : praise the Lord, O my soul ! upon the loud sounding instrument. Ye glorious angels, that excel in glory, sing praises to him that sits upon the throne. O how am I overcome ! Ye stones in the street, why rise ye not up to praise him that lives for ever ? O thou light, praise thou the Lord ; and thou darkness, praise and exalt him above all things for ever : thou sun and moon, ye stars in the firmament of his power, magnify the Lord above all for ever : all ye fishes in the sea, why come ye not forth to praise the Lord, the mighty God, who gives you breath and being ? I will praise thee whilst I have any breath. Praise the Lord, O my soul ! sing praises to the God of my salvation. My holy One, thou hast overcome my heart ; thou hast ravished my soul. My dear mother, I shall be as a new-born babe ; I shall be very simple, but bear with me, for the Lord is with me.

" My dear mother, I must lay down this body, the Lord will not trust me longer in this world. Happy am I, my Saviour, my soul loves thee dearly ; thy love is better than wine ; my holy One, how glorious art thou ! I have seen thy glory ; my heart is overcome with thy sweet countenance. O come away, why dost thou stay ? I am ready, I am ready."

Then lying some time very still, I heard her in a heavenly harmony, in which frame of spirit she departed without either sigh or groan.

Witnessed by me, ANN MARTIN.

FRIENDS

FRIENDS and people, to whom the foregoing lines may come, these may give you knowledge of the state and wonderful expressions which were uttered by this maid, now deceased, made me desirous to see her ; and, as a mother fearing God, knowing what joy it must be to have a child who had transgressed turn to the Lord with all the heart, and find acceptance with the Almighty, as I have cause to believe she did, for he was with her, and I felt a living power to operate in her, that neither her youth nor comeliness, with any other outward expectation that she formerly had or might have of the glory of this world, left a place in her to desire any longer life ; but, as she had before I came, cried out against herself for loving and going to these vanities and parish-places of worship ; so now in my hearing she was much raised in her spirit, in the sense of the joy which she believed she was entering into ; and praising the Lord with a pleasant melody, and desiring also, that “ her mother might be taken out of this wicked world.” I felt the loving-kindness of God unto her, and she was brought near to me. The Lord shewed me “ she must die ;” and being the only child of her parents, and having heard this tender-hearted mother had buried her only son not a quarter of a year before, which by relation was an excellent child for his years, not being six and an half, for wisdom and learning, and outward comeliness, a very beautiful child, and one of great courage, yet of a very tender, sweet, loving nature, and, more than all, in soberness pursuing the better part ; so I felt and know, in these sudden and renewing trials there was judgment, and beholding her mother quietly and patiently bearing it, had brought to my remembrance, “ That they are blest that stand in judgment ;” and none but a tender mother can tell what it is to have hopeful children so soon taken from them,

them, and see the Lord is righteous in what he doth ; and I who have drank into this cup, and a more bitter one, must confess, " The Lord is righteous in all, and his judgments are true ; but his mercies are over all his works, and his love everlasting, and who lives therein gives thanks for all things ; " and this appears to me worthy to be known and retained, that so young, hopeful, and beautiful a maid should be taken off from her vanity, yet that the mercy of the Lord should so freely extend itself unto her, that she might testify against her own and the world's vanities and worship ; and, though but in the last hour, the Lord of goodness granted her an entrance into his vineyard, and power she received to magnify his justice and mercy, that out of the mouths of babes and sucklings will perfect his own praise ; and sure I am, the dealings of the Almighty with her on her dying-bed was a forewarning to some and instruction to others, that all might believe and come to the obedience, where all may profit and be built up unto eternal life, over death and hell, which is the desire of her who through grace is a lover of souls.

REBECCA TRAVERS.

JOAN

**JOAN WHITROW'S
TESTIMONY
CONCERNING
The Loving Kindness of the Lord.**

O LORD ! did I ever ask riches or honour of thee, but wisdom and understanding ? For I said in my heart, the merchandize of that is better than of gold and silver. O Lord ! thou art that wisdom my soul asked ; thou art that understanding my heart sought for, more than for hidden treasures. Did I ever ask silver or gold, houses or lands, for my children's portion ? But I have asked the fear of the Lord ; for I knew right well, if they had that, they had all treasures. Glory, glory, be unto thee, for what thou hast given me. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit doth livingly rejoice in the God of my salvation, who hath had regard to the low estate of his hand-maid. What shall I render unto thee for all thy mercies towards me, but to stand continually upon my watch-tower, and to keep in my wards whole nights, that when my Lord comes in the second or third watch, he may find me with my loins girded, and my light burning, that so I may be ready in body, soul, and spirit, to enter into the joy of my Lord. O my soul ! what hath the Lord been to thee ? even a place of broad rivers. O the height and length, depth and breadth, of the love of God to my soul, in this state. How hast thou come in
and

and supped with me, and caused me to eat of the banquet that thou hadst prepared, and drink of the wine of thy kingdom ; so that my cup hath overflowed, as it doth at this time, in the remembrance of thy gracious goodness ; what thou hast been to me in the day of trial, and in the many tribulations ; how thou didst set my feet upon a rock, didst establish my goings, praises be unto thee ; and yet this was a small thing of thy glorious goodness and bountiful loving-kindness : thou hast also given my children a name amongst the living, and crowned them with eternal life. Oh, eternal praises and endless hallelujahs be given unto thee, our everlasting Father. Did I ever think, in the day when thou leddest me down into the deep, that I should have thus beheld thy wonders in this the day of thy mighty power, wherein thou hast returned me the answers of my petitions, when I said unto thee, "Let my children be thy children, otherwise I desire none ; for one child in thy fear, O Lord ! is more to me than a thousand in the spirit of this world :" then did thy presence overshadow me, and my soul was sweetly solaced in thy love ; then thou answered me and said, "I will be a father to thy children and a husband unto thee." O thou faithful one ! who is a God like unto thee, keeping covenant with them that fear thee ? for now thou hast performed thy word unto thy servant, glory be to thee for ever. O thou holy one ! what hast thou done for me ? No heart can conceive, no tongue can express, the riches of thy love ; for thou hast given me my children again in the resurrection of thy most holy life ; though their tabernacle be gone to its place, yet they live with me in the spirit, for our communion is with the holy one. And now, O Lord ! what am I, or what is my family, that thou shouldest shew this great kindness to ? Not unto me, O Lord ! but unto thy name be the

praise : for what am I, that I should offer up an offering unto the Lord ? For out of the willingness of my heart have I offered my children unto the Lord, although my children were as dear to me as my life, and I could have laid down my life for theirs, if the Lord had required it ; yet I durst not ask their life, although my dear child so much desired it ; but I said unto the Lord, Glorify thy name, let thy will be done in my earth, as it is in heaven. And now, O Lord ! by thy hand thou hast brought this to pass, and for the exaltation of thy glorious name, thou powerful God, art striking dread and terror into the hearts of thy enemies ; and all that will not bow to thee shall be slain before thee ; for, O thou long-suffering God, how is the throne of iniquity established, and thou dispossessed of thy princely dominion, whose right it is to reign in the hearts of the sons and daughters of men ! But they have robbed thee of thy right, and entertained thy enemy in thy room ; but now thou art come, now thy day is come, thou so long spake of by the mouth of thy holy prophets, that thou wilt dismount the man of sin out of his throne, and set thy son upon thy holy hill ; yea, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of all mountains ; thou hast determined to destroy all iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness. Amen, amen, saith my soul ; all glory, glory, and eternal praises, be given unto thee, thou King of glory.

Concerning my dear Son JASON.

I need not speak much ; for most that knew him, knew what manner of child he was, both in person and natural parts ; therefore I shall only give

give a small relation of some of the sensible words that came from him before he fell sick, for the satisfaction of some that desire it. Before he went to the Latin school, he was in a most sweet heavenly frame of spirit, and had such a zeal for truth, that if any lightness or airiness appeared in any, he was a continual reprobate of such: the precious words that came from him at that time are passed out of mind: I writ down some of them but they are lost. He delighted exceedingly to hear me rehearse the noble acts of the Lord, and would be exceedingly broken; he would often pray when he was alone. He earnestly desired his father upon his death-bed, that he would let him go from him to the wall, that he might pray. He desired much to converse with me concerning God and his kingdom; and would ask me deep questions, with heavenly expressions, to the astonishment of the hearers, that I have often said in my heart, This is the inspiration of the Almighty, that gives my child this understanding. He loved the Lord and his people, and would often say, when he saw any that he thought were good friends, it made his heart glad to see them; would say, "If I live, I shall be a good Quaker; I shall go forth and declare the word of the Lord; I shall be a true minister; I will not preach for hire; I will proclaim the dreadful day of the Lord against the wicked: I will say, Wo to the proud persons, wo to the scoffers, wo to the drunkards, wo unto them that rise early to follow drunkenness, and to them that continue until night, till the wine doth inflame them. You workers of iniquity, what will you do in the universal day of the Lord, that is coming, for because you have wasted the good creatures upon your lust, the Lord will bring a famine. Mother, sometimes I have such trouble in me, that I am not so good as I would be, that I play so much, and do not

every

every thing as thou would have me ; I pray to the Lord and say, destroy this wicked one in me, and put thy fear into my heart, that I may never do any thing that shall displease thee ; yet for all this, the tempter will come in and take my mind off the Lord ; then am I so troubled, that I say, Lord have mercy upon me." The day before he fell sick, he took me by the hand, and said, " Mother, I shall die, O that thou might die with me, that we might both go to the Lord together." Then I said, " My dear child, why dost thou desire to die ?" He answered, " That I might be always with my dear Lord, and out of this wicked world." When at any time he had seen me retired unto the Lord, he hath sat down by me, and would be mightily broken, and hath often said weeping, " O that I did enjoy that which thou enjoyest ! O that I knew what the fear of the Lord was, that my heart might be made glad as thine is." The Lord shewed me, when he was three years of age, he was his beloved child, and he would take him, and from that time I have expected his death.

He departed this life not being six years and an half old.

JOAN WHITROW.

F I N I S.

